

Hello Barry and Patricia,

I very much enjoyed my chat with you on Sunday and hope that it wasn't too much of an intrusion on your privacy. Anyway, many thanks for your time - and for the cup of coffee - it was very kind of you both. It looks as though the Gooderham family and their descendants had all drifted away from Occold by the early part of the 20th Century, apart from John and Elizabeth (nee Gooderham) Everson, the couple who ran one of the local shops and who we discussed on Sunday. Following your directions, I easily located their grave in the cemetery and took a lovely photograph of the headstone.

If you remember, I told you about Zachariah Gooderham and his infamous family from Occold. I have copied and pasted below some information about them, including their Removal Order and their respective gaol sentences, in the hope that you will find this of some interest. They must have been quite a family! George, Harriet, Maria, John and Robert were all children of Zachariah. As I mentioned, this information has been extracted from the Poor Law records and the Ipswich Gaol Books held at the Suffolk Record Office at Ipswich where they are available for public inspection.

"Zachariah

On October 10, 1808, the church wardens and overseers of the poor of the Parish of Eye issued a removal order to Zachariah, his wife, Sophia, and one-year-old son, Elijah. (Sophia was Zach's first wife.) Zachariah and his family had recently arrived in Eye and had not 'gained a legal settlement there.' They were moved to the parish of Occold.

"On 17 January 1842, a warrant was issued for Zachariah. On 18 January 1842, he began six weeks of hard labour at Ipswich County Gaol. 'Zachariah Gooderham. Married, aged 54, labourer of Occold, illiterate. Height 5'4-1/2", light complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, long visage. Wearing hat, jacket, smock frock, waistcoat, breeches, gaiters, stockings, shoes, shirt. Offence 'Maliciously damaging a fence.' On 29 February 1842, Zachariah's prison term expired.

"On 31 January 1848, another warrant was issued for Zachariah. On 1 February 1848, he entered Ipswich County Gaol. 'Zachariah Gooderham. Aged 66, labourer, of Occold, illiterate. Wearing gloves, hat, coat, waistcoat, breeches, gaiters, stockings, shoes and shirt. Offence 'Stealing four pounds weight of Old Iron' from Thomas Everson, Occold, Blacksmith.' On 17 March 1848, at Ipswich Sessions, Zachariah was sentenced to one month of hard labour. His prison term expired on 13 April 1848.

"On 20 August 1849, a third warrant was issued for Zachariah. On 21 August 1849, he entered Ipswich County Gaol. 'Zachariah Gooderham, married, aged 67, labourer, of Occold, illiterate. Light complexion, grey hair, grey eyes, long visage, cut on the thumb of left hand. Wearing hat, coat, waistcoat, breeches, gaiters, stockings, shoes and shirt, and with 2 handkerchiefs, a

purse and 2-1/2d. Offence 'Stealing One faggot of Wood of the Value of threepence' from John Nichols of Occold, Farmer.' On 19 October 1849, at Ipswich Sessions, Zachariah was sentenced to three months. His prison term expired on 18 January 1850.

"George

"On 18 November 1841, a warrant was issued for George. His offence was for "stealing a box containing two £10 notes, three £5 notes, four cheques for the payment of £24 13sh, a purse containing £1.13.6 in silver ... a small bag containing four sovereigns and two half sovereigns" at Aspell. He entered Ipswich County Gaol on 21 November 1841. George was 18 years old, a labourer, of Occold, and illiterate. 'Height 5' 8-1/2"', complexion dark, hair dark brown, eyes hazel, visage round, scar on the thumb of left hand cut from a sickle. Wearing hat, coat, 2 waistcoats, breeches, gaiters, stockings, shoes, shirt and carrying handkerchief.' On 7 January(?) 1842, George was convicted at Ipswich Sessions and sentenced to 14 days of hard labour. His prison term expired on 14 January(?) 1842.

"Harriet

"On 13 December 1842, a warrant was issued for Harriet. On 14 December 1842, she began 14 days imprisonment at Ipswich County Gaol: 'Harriet Gooderham, single, aged 19, of Occold. Offence 'Behaving in a riotous and indecent manner in the parish of Occold.' On 27 December 1842, Harriet ended her prison term.

"Maria

"On 13 December 1842, a warrant was issued for 17-year-old Maria for 'Behaving in an indecent and riotous manner in the parish of Occold.' Beginning 14 December 1842, she was imprisoned at Ipswich County Gaol for fourteen days. Her prison term ended on 27 December 1842.

"John

"On 30 October 1860, a warrant was issued for John. On 31 October 1860, he entered Ipswich County Gaol. His offence was for 'Stealing One Spade' and his sentence was for "One Calendar Month." He is described in the gaol records as: 'John Gooderham, married, aged 30, of Occold, labourer, illiterate. Height 5'7"', fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, round visage. Wearing hat, coat, waistcoat, breeches, gaiters, stockings, shoes, shirt and carrying a knife and 5d.' On 29 November 1860, John's prison term expired.

"Robert

"On 25 February 1852, a warrant was issued for Robert. His offence was for 'Breaking windows at Union House' in Eye, Suffolk. He entered Ipswich County Gaol on 25 February 1852. His sentence was for two months hard labour. He is described in gaol records: 'Robert Gooderham, single, aged 18, labourer, of Occold. height 5'4"', pale complexion, light hair, blue eyes, thin visage. Wearing coat, waistcoat, trousers, stockings, shoes, cap, and carrying a handkerchief, a purse and 1-1/2d.' On 20 April 1852, Robert's prison term expired.

"On 31 January 1853, a warrant was issued for Robert. His offence was for 'Refusing to Work in Union House.' He was sentenced to two weeks hard labour. He is described in gaol records: 'Robert Gooderham aged 19, labourer, of Eye, born Occold. Previously of West Suffolk Militia. height 5'4", fair complexion, light hair, grey eyes, full visage, cut on 1st finger of right hand. Wearing coat, waistcoat, trousers, stockings, boots, shirt and cap, and carrying a handkerchief.' On 29 February 1853, Robert's prison term expired.

Best wishes,

John Peters